

Monomoy National Wildlife Refuge



August 3 – August 9, 2014 [Issue 13]

Photo Credit: USFWS/Deb Harrison

A Message from Monomoy

Spread the word, more staging terns are arriving on the Monomoy Islands! Nekton sampling came to a wrap on 8/7 while camp was officially broken down the same day. Staff is now in the midst of attending meetings to discuss their findings with other seabird/shorebird nesting sites from around the area, the first of which was the Coastal Waterbird Cooperator's meeting held on 8/5. At this meeting, preliminary productivity estimates were shared between sites ranging along the coast of Massachusetts and including Nantucket and Martha's Vineyard. Other states including ME, CT, NH, and RI were also in attendance to share their findings. Staff will next be traveling to Hog Island in Maine for the Gulf of Maine Seabird Working Group meeting on 8/11.

Although this is a great time of year to see staging birds, please be mindful and respectful of posted areas. Staging is an important behavior for the survival and longevity of migrating birds, so please do not disturb the birds!

2014 Field Season Update

This is a weekly synopsis of biological activities on South Monomoy, North Monomoy, and Minomoy Islands. Information within this report is subject to change. For up to date information, please contact Refuge Staff.

Bird Sightings

Double-crested cormorant
Great black-backed gull
Herring gull
Ring-billed gull
Glaucous gull
Iceland gull
Laughing gull
Bonaparte's gull
Willet
Greater yellowlegs
Lesser yellowlegs
Black-crowned night heron
Yellow-crowned night heron
Tricolored heron
Green heron
American bittern
White-rumped sandpiper
Least sandpiper
Pectoral Sandpiper
Hudsonian Godwit
Marbled Godwit
Short-billed dowitcher
Black tern
Arctic tern
Spotted sandpiper
Whimbrel
Razorbill
Mississippi kite
Glossy Ibis

Black-bellied plover
Semipalmated plover
Semipalmated sandpiper
Sanderling
Dunlin
Snowy owl
Great egret
White-throated sparrow
Turkey vulture
Peregrine falcon
Red-winged blackbird
Common grackle
Ruddy turnstone
Wilson's plover
Red Knot
Seaside sparrow
Northern gannet
Common loon
Common eider
American black duck
Magnolia warbler
Cedar waxwing
Brant goose
Eastern kingbird
Willow flycatcher
Barn swallow
Black Scoter
Gull-billed tern

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Photo of the Week



Photo Credit: USFWS/Deb Harrison

Bird ActivityPiping Plovers (PIPL)

No new information to report. All chicks have fledged on the refuge and are no longer being monitored daily.

American Oystercatchers (AMOY)

One nest remains at the north tip of North Monomoy. Unfortunately, time constraints did not permit staff to check the nest this week. The nest was last checked 7/27, 8 days after its hatch date.

Staff is anticipating the arrival of staging individuals in the coming weeks, but notes no new individuals so far.

Common Tern (COTE) & Roseate Tern (ROST)

Staff officially broke down camp 7 August and notes the colony much quieter with the lack of terns. Productivity continues with 29 productivity plots closed and 4 plots remaining. Staff will continue to monitor remaining plots until the last remaining nests have hatched or failed.

Resighting efforts began on 8/4 from the north tip of South Monomoy down to the connection and north up South Beach to the cut. Seven flocks between 50-400 terns were observed staging. Between these flocks, 11 adult ROSTs and 2 hatch year ROSTs were seen. Five of the adults had a 6-band color combination while one of the hatch year ROSTs had a yellow PFR with black letters, indicating it was banded in NY or CT.

Staff went out on 8/8 to resight terns with Jeff Spendelow and observed 3 flocks between 120-330 terns. Roughly 6 ROSTs were seen, one of which had a 6-band color combination.

On 1 August, one of Monomoy's ROST adults was resighted at Race Point at the Cape Cod National Seashore with its fledgling. This was the first adult-hatch year match-up observed where both have PFR bands.

Black Skimmers (BLSK)

No new information to report.

Least Terns (LETE)

No new information to report. The nesting LETEs on Minimoy were not checked this week.

Laughing Gulls (LAGU)

No new information to report.

Roseate habitat restoration Project

Staff will be planting ~1200 more seaside goldenrod at the end of August in hopes of attracting more roseate terns for the following breeding season.

iPlover

Staff has recorded 53 plover nests with iPlover to date. Staff expects to record 4 more iPlover entries by the end of the season.

Salt Marsh Integrity

On 7 August, staff and volunteers finished the last of nekton sampling at Hospital Pond. Overall, 75 hours were spent getting wet and bitten by mosquitoes to complete the 60 sampling points stretched between Morris Island, North Monomoy, Minimoy, and South Monomoy. We would like to thank all of our volunteers, especially our most dedicated volunteer, Deborah Harrison, who contributed over 24 hours of hard work to this project. We could not have done this without all of our committed staff and volunteers!

Data shows 11 nekton species being sampled with striped killifish, mummichogs, and Atlantic silversides taking the lead on being the most abundant. Honorable mentions include sheepshead minnow, daggerblade grass shrimp, and ctenophores. Staff has tallied 2,597 fish caught with 993 fish being the highest number trapped at one point on Morris Island, our smallest site!

Current & Upcoming Events**Tern Staging Counts****MRBS Opens****Shorebird Surveys****Shorebird Project: Trapping Window 1****August****August 14****August 15****September 7 - 12**

AUGUST 2014						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
27	28	29	30	31	1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31	1	2	3	4	5	6